

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 L-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 RSC-01

/039 W

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O 272123Z NOV 74 ZFF6

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4985

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 9997

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, CI

SUBJECT: BREAK WITH CHILE.

REF: MEXICO 9963, MEXICO 9966

1. POL COUNSELOR SOUGHT APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN SECRETARIAT UNDERSECRETARY GALLASTEGUI IN EFFORT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION ON REASONS FOR GOM'S SUDDEN BREAK OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHILE. GALLASTEGUI WAS EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE (WE SUSPECT LATTER) TO SHED MUCH LIGHT ON SUBJECT. HE IS GENERALLY FORTHCOMING WITH EMBASSY AND WE FEEL HE WOULD HAVE NO HESITATION IN SIMPLY SAYING HE WAS NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT; INSTEAD, HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT REASONS FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA WOULD GIVE FOR BREAK, WHEN LATTER MET WITH PRESS LATER TODAY. HE THOUGHT PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE CARRIED LIVE ON EITHER TV OR RADIO BUT PROMISED A TRANSCRIPT OF CONFERENCE AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. EMBOFF MENTIONED PRESS SPECULATION THAT CASE OF LAURA ALLENDE MIGHT HAVE LED TO BREAK BUT GALLASTEGUI DID NOT CONFIRM THIS; HE SAID THAT GOM ACTION, IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION, AROSE OUT OF TOTAL CONTEXT OF A SERIES OF DEVELOPMENTS IN MEXICAN-CHILEAN RELATIONS. HE SAID GOM TAKING SOUNDINGS AMONG SEVERAL LATIN  
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AMERICAN COUNTRIES BUT HAD NOT YET SELECTED ONE TO REPRESENT

MEXICAN INTERESTS IN CHILE. GALLASTEGUI WAS, AS ALWAYS, COURTEOUS AND FRIENDLY DURING INTERVIEW.

2. EMBOFF THIS MORNING ALSO CONSULTED WITH OFFICER OF CHILEAN EMBASSY (DAGNINO) WHO SAID CHILEAN CHARGE WAS CALLED IN AT 6:00 P.M. LOCAL YESTERDAY AND HANDED BY GALLASTEGUI A PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING BREAK. HE SAID GALLASTEGUI MADE NO COMMENT WHATSOEVER. (PRESS RELEASE WAS MADE PUBLIC ABOUT ONE HOUR LATER.) CHILEAN EMBOFF WAS AT LOSS TO EXPLAIN SUDDEN GOM ACTION. HE WAS AWARE OF NO RECENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OR CASES OF LAURA ALLENDE OR ALMEYDA. HE WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT GOC HAD NOT RESPONDED TO LAST GOM APPROACH ON LAURA ALLENDE. CHILEAN COMMENTED THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES THINK RABASA IS BASICALLY FRIENDLY IN ADVOCATING A TOLERANT LINE (TOWARD CHILE) WITHIN GOM COUNCILS, BUT THEY THINK RABASA CARRIES LITTLE WEIGHT. CHILEANS BELIEVE THAT RABASA DID NOT KNOW THAT BREAK WOULD OCCUR MUCH IN ADVANCE. CHILEAN EMBASSY STAFF IS NOW IN PROCESS OF PREPARING TO LEAVE MEXICO, THOUGH NO INSTRUCTIONS YET RECEIVED FROM SANTIAGO. GOM HAS NOT GIVEN THEM ANY TIME LIMIT FOR DEPARTURE.

3. COMMENT: AT THIS STAGE, EMBASSY INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT FOREIGN SECRETARIAT (INCLUDING RABASA) DID NOT MAKE DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS, BUT THAT DECISION MADE BY ECHEVERRIA. IT IS REASONABLE TO SUPPOSE THAT SOME SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT OR SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES LED TO DECISION BUT THIS MAY OR MAY NOT EMERGE IN NEAR FUTURE. FACTOR WHICH MAY HAVE INFLUENCED ECHEVERRIA, BUT WHICH WE ARE UNABLE TO EVALUATE, IS THAT OF PRESSURE FROM CHILEAN EXILES, INCLUDING MRS. HORTENSIA ALLENDE, EXERTED UPON PRESIDENT AND OR MRS. ECHEVERRIA OR UPON INDIVIDUALS CLOSE TO THEM. CHILEAN EMBASSY SOURCE DOES NOT BELIEVE EXILES INFLUENCED DECISION, BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE NO CONTACT WITH AND LITTLE INFORMATION ON EXILES' ACTIVITIES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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